

Message Text

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ACTION SNM-05

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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SUBJECT: DEMAND REDUCTION ASSISTANCE

REF: A) STATE 93604, B) KUALA LUMPUR 2053,

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1. THE EMBASSY APPROACHED ADNAN ABDULLAH, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SOCIAL WELFARE, AND DR. V. NAVARATNAM OF UNIVERISITI SAINS PENANG (WHO HAS JUST BEEN GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR COORDINATING INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN THE NEW GOM NARCOTICS ACTION UNIT--SEE PARA 4, BELOW) TO DISCUSS THE REVISED MINISTRY OF WELFARE SERVICES (MWS) TRAINING PROJECT. BOTH CONCUR IN THE NEW PROPOSAL, AS DOES THE EMBASSY.

2. ADNAN ALSO AGREED THAT THE DELAY IN FIELDING THE TRAINING TEAM IS FORTUITOUS, SINCE SEVERAL OFFICERS WHO ARE NOW RECEIVING THEIR MASTERS DEGREES IN SOCIAL WORK IN THE U.K. WILL BE RETURNING TO MALAYSIA IN DECEMBER RATHER THAN IN SEPTEMBER AS HE HAD EXPECTED. ADNAN WILL ASSIGN THESE OFFICERS TO HIS TRAINING CENTER

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AND WANTS THEM TO BE EXPOSED TO AT LEAST PART OF THE WORK OF THE TRAINING TEAM HERE. (HE SAID THAT THREE OTHER OFFICERS WILL ACT AS THE FORMAL UNDERSTUDIES TO THE TRAINING TEAM MEMBERS FOR THE FULL DURATION OF THEIR STAY HERE.) WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT THE TRAINING TEAM BE SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN MALAYSIA AS LATE AS

POSSIBLE IN CY 1978. ADNAN ALSO REQUESTED THAT THE TRAINING DESIGN CONSULTANT COME NO EARLIER THAN JUNE IN ORDER TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF THE TIME OF MSW PERSONNEL.

3. CONTRARY TO THE IMPRESSION GIVEN US BY DATUK JARJIS (REFTEL B), NAVARATNAM SAID THAT RAIS YATIM IS EAGER TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE ADVISOR TO PEMADAM, ALTHOUGH HE MIGHT NOT BE SO FULLY INVOLVED WITH A HALF-WAY HOUSE AS WE HAD ORIGINALLY THOUGHT. NAVARATNAM PROMISED TO SEND US A FORMAL REQUEST WITH A LIST OF GOM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ADVISOR WITHIN TWO WEEKS. COMMENT. IT LOOKS LIKE THIS PROJECT MIGHT BE BACK ON TRACK.

4. NAVARATNAM TOLD US IN CONFIDENCE THAT A NARCOTICS ACTION UNIT HAS BEEN SET UP UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, A DIRECT RESULT OF UN NARCOTIC DIVISION DIRECTOR DR. GEROGE TING'S RECOMMENDATION THAT THE GOM BETTER COORDINATE ITS NARCOTICS EFFORTS (REFTEL C). THE UNIT'S DIRECTOR IS DEPUTY HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER RAIS YATIM AND IT HAS REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH MINISTRY WITH A NARCOTICS ROLE. OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE TO THE USG, NAVARATNAM SAID LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR DRUG ENFORCEMENT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DEPARTMENT (CID) OF THE ROYAL MALAYSIAN POLICE AND THE DIRECTOR OF CID HAS THE POWER TO ALLOCATE RESOURCES AND OVERRULE THE HEADS OF OTHER ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. NAVARATNAM SAID THAT FOR POLITICAL REASONS THE LAW MINISTRY'S CENTRAL NARCOTICS BUREAU (CNB) WILL REMAIN IN EXISTENCE "FOR THE TIME BEING" BUT THAT THE CID DIRECTOR WILL CONTROL ITS OPERATIONS. MSW WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING ALL TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ACTION UNIT AFTER NAVARATNAM PROVIDES US WITH TERMS OF REFERENCE AND ORGANIZATION. MILLER

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